1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

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Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER – 1

2. "CONFIDENTIAL" AND "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL

"Confidential" material shall include documents, tangible things, or deposition testimony designated with the legend "Confidential" or in the manner described in paragraph 5, below. "Highly Confidential" material shall include documents, tangible things, or deposition testimony designated with the legend "Highly Confidential" or in the manner described in paragraph 5, below.

3. <u>SCOPE</u>

The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only Confidential and Highly Confidential material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Confidential or Highly Confidential material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Confidential or Highly Confidential material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal Confidential or Highly Confidential material. However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise. This agreement applies to material and information produced in this action both by parties and non-parties.

4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL AND HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

4.1 <u>Basic Principles</u>. A receiving party may use Confidential or Highly Confidential material that is disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential and Highly Confidential material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential and Highly Confidential material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location

and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

- 4.2 <u>Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items</u>. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any Confidential material only to:
- (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;
- (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation;
- (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);
 - (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;
- (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential material;
- (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;

- (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.
- 4.3 <u>Disclosure of "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items</u>. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any Highly Confidential material only to:
- (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;
- (b) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);
 - (c) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;
- (d) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential material;
- (e) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;
- (f) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

4.4 <u>Filing Confidential Material</u>. Before filing Confidential or Highly Confidential material or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party determine whether the designating party will remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

5.2 <u>Manner and Timing of Designations</u>. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or

ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

- (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).
- (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings: the parties must identify on the record, during the deposition, hearing, or other proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving a deposition transcript, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential.
- (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).
- 5.3 <u>Inadvertent Failures to Designate</u>. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

- designation of confidentiality at any time. If any party believes that any document or information which is claimed to be Confidential or Highly Confidential does not contain confidential or highly confidential material, it may contest the applicability of this Agreement to such information by notifying the opposing party's counsel in writing and identifying the information contested. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.
- Meet and Confer. The parties shall have seven (7) days after notice given pursuant to paragraph 6.1 to meet and confer and attempt to resolve the issue. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.
- 6.3 <u>Judicial Intervention</u>. If the dispute is not resolved within seven (7) days after notice given pursuant to paragraph 6.1, the party seeking the protection shall have seven (7) additional days in which to make a motion for the protection of such document or information. The document or information that is subject to a dispute as to whether it is

Confidential or Highly Confidential, shall, until further order of the Court, be treated as designated (Confidential or Highly Confidential) in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

The burden of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions.

7. <u>PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION</u>

If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL," that party must:

- (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the subpoena or court order;
- (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and
- (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.
- 7.1 <u>Disclosure to Third Parties</u>. The disclosure by the producing party of Confidential or Highly Confidential information or material, regardless of whether the information was so designated at the time of disclosure, shall not be deemed a waiver in whole or in part of a party's claim of confidentiality with respect to third parties, either as to the specific information disclosed or as to any other information relating thereto or on the same or related subject matter. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to waive any claim of privilege or of work product immunity.

8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Confidential or Highly Confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9. <u>INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE</u> PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. Parties shall confer on an appropriate non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502.

10. EFFECTIVE DATE

The parties agree to abide by the terms of this protective order beginning on the date of execution by the parties, even if such date is prior to execution and approval by the court.

11. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return all Confidential and Highly Confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.